

## Letters to the Editor

Sir,

Jesus, the Christ was never silent in front of evil. Neither was He unwilling to confront Satan in the desert. Within the Hindu paradigm, all manifestations of the Devi as Mahavidyas confronted demons directly. The point here is that both YHWH qua Shakti qua Brahman wants us to confront evil directly and to take a stand against evil. Christianity and Shakti worship are both reactions to systemic evil.

It is in this context that I condemn the torture and murder of a lady doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College, Kolkata recently. Our city saw unprecedented midnight protests by women who as it were, reclaimed the night. As a dad of a teenage girl, I feel that this heinous crime has changed forever the perception of this city as a safe city. Women should be sensitised to protest against gendered jokes; late night texts and inappropriate touches. It does not always take physical abuse to violate a woman. The pervert's gaze is sufficient to violate women. Within Hinduism, it is understood that had not Draupadi been insulted by the Kauravas, the battle of Kurukshetra would not have begun. Similarly, Christ warns us to pluck out our eyes if they are used for lewdness. Let us not forget that in both our religions, God preferentially opts to be especially with the weak and marginalised. When the doctor was killed, it was like putting nails once again on Christ who hangs in shame from His rood. This death should be avenged. Otherwise, our city cannot sleep. Unless the culprits are brought to book, the Devi cannot find a fit residence in this city.

The time has come for all men of goodwill to respect boundaries set by women; to understand that no from a woman never means yes; and while the quality of mercy is never strained we must as Faith communities mete out exemplary punishment to even those who colluded with the crime by their silence. We need to be on our guard against the Pontius Pilates of our society.